

REMARKS

Claims 18, 19 and 21 remain on file. Claims 18 and 19 have been amended in order to address the Examiner's objections, and claim 21 has been rewritten and includes now all the limitations of former claims 18 and 19 and amendments according to the Examiner's remarks.

Concerning the rejection of claim 18 as anticipated by Wiegand et al., Applicants' argument is that a difference of structure exists between the device according to claim 18 and Wiegand et al. Claim 18 separately states a support and drive structure for moving the terminal element, and an auxiliary structure for pivoting the terminal element, whereas in Wiegand et al., the functions of the carriages and their legs are not differentiated. Since this argument has already been presented, we have now inserted in claim 18 the limitation that the auxiliary structure imparts to the terminal element a pivoting movement about a pivot axis which remains parallel to itself. This statement clearly follows from the figures and the description of the different embodiments. In addition, Applicants particularly draw the Examiner's attention to paragraph 0045, lines 11 to 13 of the description of the application as published.

With a view to the above, the rejection of claim 18 as anticipated by Wiegand et al. should be removed.

Concerning the rejections under 35 USC §112, the reference to a condition of "angular stiffness tracking" has been removed and replaced by the statement of a geometrical configuration explained in paragraph 0038 (lines 8 to 13) and paragraph 0039 (lines 4 to 9) of the description of the application as published. These statements are sufficient for the one skilled in the art for permitting him to realize the subject matter of

the invention. In addition, the corrections required by the Examiner have been made.

Accordingly, claim 18 as presently amended should be allowable.

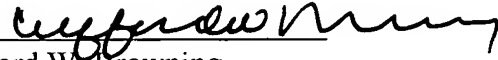
Regarding claim 19, the indefiniteness objected by the Examiner has been removed by inserting the definition of the instantaneous position of the pivot axis as stated in paragraph 0045 (lines 13 to 16).

Further, claim 21 has been rewritten, as required by the Examiner, in independent form correcting the 35USC112 deficiencies.

In light of the above, the Applicants sincerely believe that all the requirements of the Examiner concerning claims 18, 19 and 21 have been satisfied.

For these foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing claim amendments under Rule 116, reconsideration of the present application in light thereof and in light of the foregoing remarks, and then allowance of claims 18, 19 and 21, as amended, over all the prior art of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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